

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 617

By Hood

A RESOLUTION To recognize and congratulate Myers Browning
Parsons, Sr. on being named the 2002
Rutherford County Heart Ball Honoree.

WHEREAS, It is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pay tribute to those citizens who through their extraordinary efforts have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, One such exemplary person is Myers Browning Parsons, Sr., who has distinguished himself as a citizen of the greatest dedication, ability, and integrity; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Parsons will be duly recognized as the 2002 Heart Ball Honoree at the Rutherford County Heart Ball on February 9, 2002; and

WHEREAS, A lifelong Tennessean, who was born in Christiana, Myers Parsons graduated from Christiana High School in 1940; and

WHEREAS, An outstanding scholar and athlete, he attended the University of Tennessee at Martin, where he played basketball and football; in 1942, he was honored with the University of Tennessee at Martin Athletic Award; and

WHEREAS, Myers Browning Parsons, Sr. transferred to the University of Tennessee at Knoxville in 1942 and enlisted in the United States Air Force in 1943; and

WHEREAS, After honorably serving his country, Mr. Parsons returned to civilian life in 1945 and headed the Veterans Farm program in Rutherford County; as head of the program, he skillfully supervised 18 teachers and served as an agriculture instructor; and

WHEREAS, In September of 1946, Myers Parsons married Ann Nora Youree; the young couple soon moved to Knoxville, where he finished his degree in Agriculture Education in 1948; and

WHEREAS, He subsequently returned to Rutherford County and started farming and teaching vocational agriculture; he served as a teacher at Kittrell for one year, before transferring to Central High School, where he taught for 12 years; and

WHEREAS, In addition to teaching in the classroom, Myers Browning Parsons, Sr. was also actively involved with Future Farmers of America; an enthusiastic and personable teacher, he formed many lifelong friendships with his students; and

WHEREAS, Diligently attending night classes, Mr. Parsons earned a Master's Degree in Education Administration at Middle Tennessee State University; and

WHEREAS, When his farming and cattle business became too demanding, Myers Parsons retired from teaching and concentrated on his international cattle interests; an industrious rancher, he purchased cattle all over the Southeast and Midwest States to sell to dairy farms in Tennessee and abroad; and

WHEREAS, Due to his vast cattle knowledge and business interests, he was invited, along with other Americans, to tour several dairy farms in Cuba with Fidel Castro in 1960; and

WHEREAS, A diverse businessman, Myers Browning Parsons, Sr. established Prince and Parsons Propane Company with the late Allen Prince in 1962; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Parsons has lent his time and considerable talents to many notable civic service organizations, including the Kiwanis Club, which he has served as President; through his involvement with the Kiwanis Club, he served as a coach for one of Murfreesboro's first Little League Teams; and

WHEREAS, A highly respected member of his community, Myers Parsons was elected to the Rutherford County Board of Education in 1962; he served the children of Rutherford County with distinction until 1968; he has also served on the Board of Directors of Citizens Central Bank and as the Director of the Rutherford County Chamber of Commerce; and

WHEREAS, He astutely served as the Director of the Rutherford Hospital for twenty years; when the hospital was sold to Baptist and St. Thomas, he served as a valuable member of the Board of the Christy Houston Foundation for ten years until he reached the age of 75; and

WHEREAS, Currently, Myers Browning Parsons, Sr. contributes his time and considerable talents to several organizations and programs, including serving as a Rutherford County Road Commissioner, a position he has held for twenty-six years; Chairman of the Rutherford County Equalization Tax Board, representing the City of Murfreesboro; and Chairman of the Building Committee for the addition to Oakland's Historic House Museum; he is also a vital member of the Institute of Agriculture Development Board for the University of Tennessee in Knoxville and the Citizens Committee for Hooper Supply Company; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Parsons's years of successful service in education, public service, and business is directly attributable to his reliance on the time-honored values of hard work, common sense, and his uncommon ability to work well with people from all walks of life; and

WHEREAS, Meyers Parsons has triumphed over personal adversity; in 1989, he had surgery for lung cancer and, in 1993, suffered a heart attack, which resulted in a five by-pass surgery; and

WHEREAS, He credits his present good health to his superb doctors, sensible diet, and his regular workouts at the Middle Tennessee Medical PACE Center, for which he is a great advocate; and

WHEREAS, Meyers Browning Parsons, Sr. is the loving father of four children, Pamela Kious, Myers B. Parsons, Jr., David A. Parsons, and Sharon Sant Amour; the proud grandfather of eight grandchildren; and one great-grandchild; and

WHEREAS, A devout member of the First Presbyterian Church, Mr. Parsons has faithfully served as an Elder since 1950; he is an active participant in many church activities, including serving as Chairman for the 75th anniversary of the First Presbyterian Church in Murfreesboro; and

WHEREAS, Throughout his life, Myers Parsons has distinguished himself as a public-spirited citizen of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Parsons' strength of character in the face of adversity and his dedication to excellence is clearly deserving of the respect, admiration, and commendation of this legislative body; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we hereby commend Myers Browning Parsons, Sr. for his meritorious contributions to education, agriculture, and public service in his community, congratulate him on being named the 2002 Heart Ball Honoree for Rutherford County, and extend to him our best wishes for every future success and continued good health.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.